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25. A NEW RECORD OF *PYEMOTES* SP. (PEDICULOIDES) OF MITE PARASITIZING THE COMMON INDIAN HOUSE FLY — *MUSCA DOMESTICA NEBULO* FABR.

(With a text-figure)

Dhiman (1981) reported for the first time a mite, *Microtrombidium* sp. parasitizing the house fly. During the collection of house flies for recording the data of infestation of this species of mite, we came across another species of mite, *Pyemotes* sp. (Acarina-Pyemotidae) also parasitizing the house flies in good number. This is an extremely small mite being 0.12 ± 0.05 mm in length and 0.05 ± 0.02 mm in width. The body is elongated and yellowish white in colour. Gnathosoma is conspicuous and retractable. Chelicerae and padipalps are minute in size. Palpi are closely appressed to rostrum. Body setae well developed, six pairs of dorsal setae and four pairs of ventral setae. Coxal apodemes are obvious. A club shaped hair is present posterior to the base of first leg on each side. A few tarsal setae are considerably long than others, specially of first and 3rd leg. Claws well developed and curved. Claws of fore leg stouter and shorter in size. A membranous empodium is present in between the claws of second to fourth legs. A pair of small eyes are present, each one on lateral sides of dorsum (scutum) (Fig. 1).

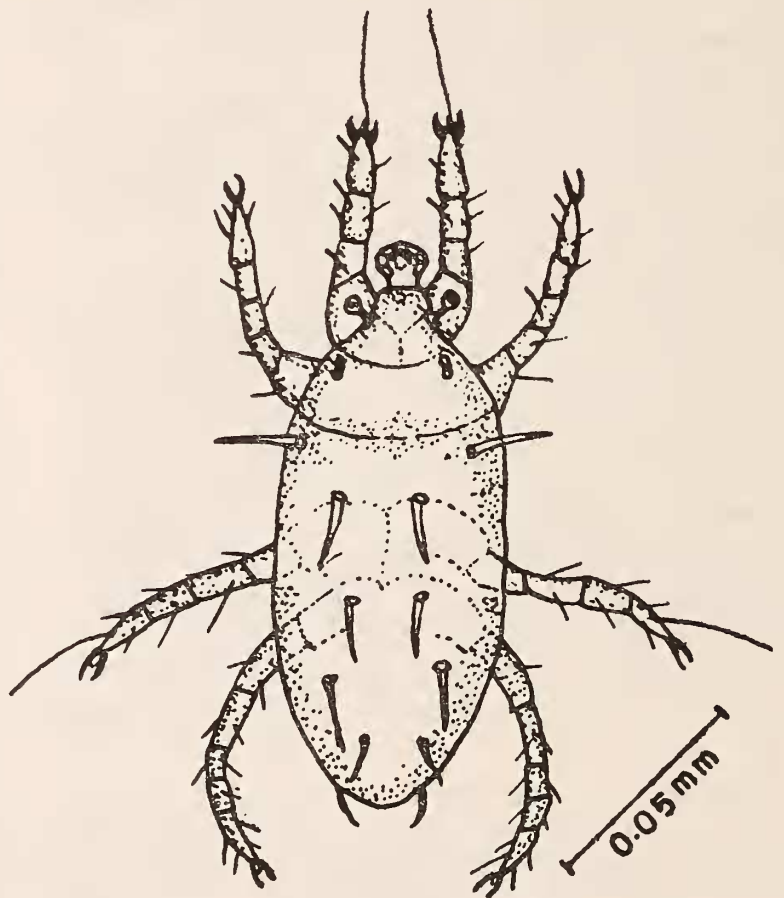


Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the *Pyemotes* sp. of mite.

The mite parasitizes the house fly from March to October which are the warmer months in this region. During this period both the host and the mite multiply rapidly while during the winter months, November to Febru-

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

ary, the population of the house flies decreases considerably and not even a single parasitized fly was observed.

The maximum number of the mite observed on a single house fly was 24 and minimum 8. Usually all the mites occurred gregariously sucking the fluid of the host body. The most preferred feeding point was the bases of hind coxae. Besides this, the other attacked parts of the host are, wing axillaries, head haustellum, arthroal membrane of the tergites and

sternites of the abdomen.

Previously, Roy and Brown (1970) observed *Pyemotes ventricosus* Newport causing dermatitis in human being. In view of this, the present *Pyemotes* sp. of mite parasitizing the house fly may cause dermatitis in man as it can be easily transferred by the host insect.

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26. PREDATORY ANTS OF THE MOUND BUILDING TERMITE, *ODONTOTERMES WALLONENSIS* (WASMANN) WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE PREDATORY BEHAVIOUR OF *LEPTOGENYS PROCESSIONALIS* (JERDON)

INTRODUCTION

Termites have many enemies including both invertebrates and vertebrates. Among the invertebrates the best known predators are ants which prey on all stages of termites. They capture termites at the time of swarming, foraging and construction and expansion of their nests. From India Mathur (1962) has listed the following species of ants as enemies of termites *Acantholepis fravenfeldi* Mayr, *Camponotus compressus* Fab. (Formicinae);

Crematogaster sp., *Monomorium destructor* Jerd., *M. indicum* Forel, (Myrmicinae) and *Leptogenys diminuta* Smith (Ponerinae). Negi (1934) reported *Leptogenys processionalis* as an active predator of termites.

Wheeler (1936) reported that several species of ants attack termites in the colonies and deplete and destroy the population. He recognised four categories of predatory ants. 1. Cleptobiotic ants: Ants which attack other ants and wrest their prey from them.